



Montgomery County Council

From the Office of Councilmember Blair Ewing

For Immediate Release

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Statement by Council President Blair Ewing On County Executive Veto of Council Legislation Requiring Developers to Pay Their Share

"This veto by County Executive Doug Duncan is a giveaway to developers who have showered him with campaign contributions – at least one-third of his recent contributions according to an article in Saturday's *Washington Post*.

"These developers oppose paying even a small share of what their projects cost the public. The tax would amount to, at most, only a third of their projects' total cost to the public for transportation improvements.

"This is such a modest tax on developers – and yet Doug Duncan has sided with them against Montgomery's families. The average taxpayer would end up picking up the bill.

"The issues Duncan raised in struggling to explain his veto were never before raised by him, whether in testimony before the Council or during our worksessions. This casts considerable doubt on his sincerity.

"He says he is against this bill because it raises developers' costs -- and yet complains that the tax won't raise enough money to significantly address traffic congestion.

"He can't have it both ways. These aren't really reasons – they're excuses for cozying up to developers.

"Without the revenue from this tax, we'll have less money to address traffic congestion – or possibly we'll have to pull more funds away from the critical capital needs of our schools.

"Montgomery County believes developers should pay their fair share of the public infrastructure costs caused by their projects. I will work to make sure that happens." # # #